

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. General Reinhard and the Kyffhäuserbund summoned a meeting of all veterans' organizations to Düsseldorf on 29-30 March to reach an agreement on whether the Kyffhäuserbund should be developed into a roof organization of all veterans' organizations.
2. The discussions during the meeting led to the following decision: The veterans' organizations rejected the plan of a union for mere organizational reasons; however, they expressed their willingness to unite for the achievement of a common practical objective. Such an objective would consist in regaining the sequestered assets of the Kyffhäuserbund for the benefit of the former soldiers. In accordance with this decision, a resolution was passed (see Annex 1) in which the participants express their regret at the uncooperativeness of large veterans' organizations in the pursuance of an aim which is of equal importance to all. General Reinhard and the leaders of those organizations not represented are requested to consult with one another for the purpose of establishing a basis for future joint action.
3. Another motion passed requested the Kyffhäuserbund to give priority to the question of restitution of its assets (see Annex 2). Initial contacts between the business manager of the Kyffhäuserbund and the competent official in the Federal Ministry of Finance have already taken place, and apparently the Ministry is willing to give every consideration to the Kyffhäuserbund in its endeavors to obtain the restitution of its assets.
4. The assembly elected a committee which, in conjunction with the Kyffhäuserbund, will prepare proposals for the organizational and economic framework of the would-be union, and those proposals will be submitted to a plenary meeting in June. After a thorough discussion, the preparatory committee was handed directives which are to guide it in its work. (See Annex 3)
5. Discussions which a representative of General Reinhard had with several leaders of the VdS revealed clearly that the VdS is not yet willing to relinquish its claim for leadership among the veterans' organizations. Believing that it has strong political support, the VdS feels that it is justified in maintaining its position as the leading organization. It

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looks upon the efforts of the Kyffhäuserbund as unnecessary and untimely attempts at entering into competition. These discussions also confirmed the existence of strong groups within the VdS/BvL which sympathize with the endeavors of the Kyffhäuserbund, but which for the time being do not see an opportunity to separate from the VdS.

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Annex 1

During the meeting of the Kyffhäuserbund and several other veterans' organizations in Wesselsdorf on 29-30 March 1952, the following motion was unanimously carried and publicized:

"The assembly regrets that some of the associations of veterans refuse to lend their support to the endeavors of the Kyffhäuserbund to regain possession of the assets of the organization in order to use them for the benefit of the veterans. Returnees and former regular soldiers suffer most directly and are most in need of support. We fear that through the self-dissolution of the Bv and the uncooperativeness of the returnees' organization many veterans will be excluded from the benefits to be derived from the future social welfare agency of the Kyffhäuserbund.

"The assembled representatives are convinced that the wish of the veterans to abstain from political activities can best be taken care of by an organization which on the basis of its tradition and experience knows that soldierly comradeship can only thrive on a non-political and non-partisan basis, both of which are guaranteed by the Kyffhäuserbund.

"General Reinhard and the larger associations which are not represented are requested to get in touch with each other for the purpose of preparing the ground for the would-be union of all veterans".

Annex 2

second resolution:

The assembly is convinced that the achievement of the aims pursued by the assembly and by the Kyffhäuserbund can only be ensured if it is possible to regain possession of the assets of the Bund in the near future. The necessary establishment of a new organ owned by the association also depends on that issue. The assembly, therefore, recommends that the restitution of the assets be treated as a vital issue which should be settled at the earliest moment with the assistance of the responsible offices.

Annex 3

On the occasion of the meeting of various veterans' organizations with the Kyffhäuserbund in Wesselsdorf on 29-30 March 1952, a five-man preparatory committee was elected. To this committee belong, in addition to representatives of associations cultivating military traditions, the State chairman of a returnees' organization and the chairman of the VdKb.

According to the resolution passed on that occasion, the committee is to prepare concrete proposals, in particular concerning the organizational and economic set-up of the planned alliance of veterans' organizations under the roof-organization of the Kyffhäuserbund, which are to be submitted to the plenary meeting in June 1952.

After a thorough discussion, the preparatory committee was given the following directives:

1. The purpose of the alliance is to be the following:
 - a. Social aid for those veterans and their dependants and families who join the Bund. In addition, active support of the social welfare institutions of the Kyffhäuserbund and in particular support of the club for restitution of its assets.
 - b. Cultivation of non-partisan and non-political soldierly comradeship on a patriotic basis; cultivation of the old and proved military traditions, putting a stop to any deformation thereof; preservation of these spiritual assets by passing them on to the younger generation.

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2. Only those established groups will be admitted which adopt the above principles and which are organized along democratic lines and in accordance with the German Law.
3. Each member-organization retains its full independence and may represent its own interests. The member organizations promise each other mutual aid and access to any material resources: the association to the members, the members to the association, and one member-organization to the other.
4. All members of the corporation have equal rights. Any claims for leadership made by certain groups cannot be recognized, nor may any privileges be derived from former military ranks.
5. The Bund is organized on the basis of democratic and constitutional principles.
6. The Bund rejects any misuse of the German soldier for political purposes and will see to it that such tendencies do not infiltrate its ranks.

The Bund seeks an early cooperation with all German and foreign veterans' organizations which are guided by the same principles and which are well-disposed towards the Bund. The Bund also endeavors to cooperate with all similar German and foreign organizations which aim at mitigating the suffering resulting from war.

The membership dues will be arranged in such a way as to accord the young and financially weak organizations sufficient time for their own internal consolidation.

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